

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment claims 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 31-39, and 41-53 remain pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 43-47 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 14, 22, 43, and 48-50 are independent. Claims 14 and 22 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The changes are being made without prejudice to the Applicants' ability to reintroduce subject matter contained in any deleted or amended claim, or to introduce additional claims.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for again taking the time to speak with the Applicants' local patent attorney. This greatly assisted in the preparation of this Amendment and Reply.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn.

Specification

The specification has been amended to more clearly differentiate between the switch 52c and the switch actuator 30. Support for the amendment is clear in Figures 11 and 12. Again, no new matter has been added.

Claims

In the office action of May 6, 2003 the Examiner rejected claims 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 31-39, 41, 42 and 48-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon Blackman et al. The Examiner indicated that claims 43-47 contain allowable subject matter.

In light of the discussion with the Examiner, claims 14 and 22 are directed to an assembly or frame assembly that requires a frame or frame assembly having sides with a depth sufficient to house the light, and the frame having an aperture in at least one of the sides allowing the light to illuminate outside the frame or frame assembly through the aperture. The combination required by the claims is not found in the cited reference.

The Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of claims 48-53 which combine a frame having sufficient depth to house the light and other aspects in the frame to align properly the component and the cover. In claim 48 these aspects include the cover mounting on top of the frame and the component mounting inside the frame to the assembly at the same depth as the cover mounts to the frame. In claim 49-53 these aspects include spacer means inside the frame. The combination required by the claims is not found in the cited reference.

It is believed that all of the claims, both those amended and those previously introduced, are distinguished from the cited reference and are in an allowable form. This includes previously rejected dependent claims where one or more of the underlying independent or dependent claims has been amended or is otherwise allowable.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite

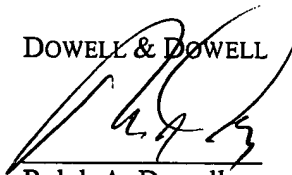
Cunningham et al
Appl. No. 09/767,959

prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DOWELL & DOWELL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Dowell', is written over a horizontal line.

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Version with markings to show changes made

Page 16, line 14-17 are amended as follows:

(twice amended) Cover 40c mounts on top of frame 42c, allowing access to switch -- actuator -- 30 of light switch 52c through opening 94c. Apertures 50c on cover 40c align with screw holes 92c on light switch 52c. Screws 49, or other suitable fasteners, may be used to secure cover 40c and wall outlet 52c together.

Claims 14 and 22 are being amended as follows:

14. (three times amended) A frame assembly and light for covering a wall conduit in a wall, the wall conduit having components requiring access outside the frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a light;

an electrical circuit providing electrical energy to the light from a power source;

a rectangular frame through which the electrical component is accessible, the frame housing the electrical circuit, the frame having -- sides [a side] -- with a depth sufficient to house the light, and the frame having an aperture in -- at least one of the sides [the side] -- allowing the light to illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture; and

a cover plate separate from the frame and for covering the frame and for providing access to the components of the wall conduit.

22. (twice amended) An assembly for use in association with a component having a connection to electrical power and requiring access during use to a portion of the component, and a -- separate -- standard-form cover for the component, the assembly comprising:

a rectangular frame through which the component is accessible; and

a light;

wherein the rectangular frame has -- sides that have [a side that has] -- sufficient depth to house the light,

wherein -- at least one of the sides [the side] -- has an aperture for allowing the light to illuminate outside the frame through the aperture,

wherein access through the frame to the component is dimensioned to be covered by the standard-form cover.